

Benton Foundation
1250 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

July 13, 2012

NOTICE OF EX PARTE

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Lifeline Link Up Reform and Modernization - WC Docket No. 11-42
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service – CC Docket No. 96-45
Lifeline and Link Up – WC Docket No. 03-109
Advancing Broadband Literacy Through Digital Literacy Training - WC
Docket No. 12-23**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday July 10, 2012 Amina Fazlullah and Sandy Tsai of the Benton Foundation¹ along with Sarah Morris of the Open Technology Institute at the New America Foundation (NAF), met with Chairman Genachowski's Wireline Advisor, Michael Steffen, regarding the above caption Lifeline and Link Up proceedings.

The Benton Foundation (Benton) and NAF both urged the Commission to focus closely on the needs of the Lifeline population while crafting a digital literacy program. The groups also strongly encouraged the Commission to direct digital literacy funds towards groups that are already successfully working on digital literacy issues. Both groups are wary of a program that would direct money for digital literacy to Eligible Telecommunication Carriers (ETCs) or through ETCs. ETCs have no expertise in digital literacy training and both groups are concerned

¹ www.benton.org, Benton Foundation public filings, including but not limited to these reply comments, represent the institutional view of the Foundation as opposed to the views of any individual officer or director.

that a direction of digital literacy funds through ETCs would result in poor digital literacy outcomes. The groups urged the Commission to carefully consider the good digital literacy programs spurred by NTIA efforts and to also consider programs run by schools, libraries and other community-driven organizations.

Sincerely,

/s/

Amina Fazlullah
Policy Counsel
Benton Foundation